(b) if not, the percentage of the total freight carried by the Railways in the country during 1990-91; and

(c) the percentage thereof in the year 2000-2001 and the reasons for continuous decrease?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) The figures of the percentage of total freight carried by the railways in the country are no. maintained. However, during 1990-1991 total originating freight loading on Indian .Railways was 318.40 Million Tonnes which increased to 473.50 Million Tonnes in 2000-2001.

Bunglings in tenders for Railway Works in Malaysia and Indonesia

† 4023. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Malaysia and Indonesia have signed agreements with the Ministry of Railways for improvement of their railway systems; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Ministry of Railways have not signed any agreements with Government of Malaysia' and Indonesia in this regard. However, IRCON, a Public Sector Undertaking under Ministry of Railways has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Government of Malaysia for double tracking of Railway line-between Ipoh Padang Besar in Malaysia and with Govt, of Indonesia for design, development and construction of major infrastructure & Port development work in South Sumatera Province which includes construction of a new Railway line. The cost of these projects is expected to be US$ 1.5 billion and US$ 260 million respectively.

Theft of goods of Rail Passengers

4024. SHRI S. AGN1RAJ:
DR. DASAR1 NARAYANA RAO:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that loss on account of theft of goods, including luggage of passengers, is consistently increasing'over Indian Railways, particularly in Southern, South-Central and South-Eastem Railways;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi,

(b) if so, the details thereof for the last three years, year-wise and Railway Zone-wise; and

(c) what steps Government have taken or propose to take to prevent this loss?

THE MINISTER OF STATE FN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The following preventive, measures are taken to prevent theft of goods:—

1. Escorting of trams carrying valuable consignment over vulnerable sections as far as possible.

2. Intensive beat patrolling in yards and other affected areas/section.

3. Joint checking at interchange points to take stock of the conditions and seals of wagons carrying consignments.

4. RPF armed pickets are posted/deployed in vulnerable sections as far as possible.

5. Plain clothed RPF personnel are also deployed to collect crime intelli-

gence with a view to tracking down the criminals.

6. Based on criminal intelligence, raids und searches are conducted on the dens of criminals/receivers of stolen property in order to bring them to book.

7. Dog squads are deployed for patrolling vulnerable yards and areas.

8. Close co-ordination between RPF, GRP and Local Police is maintained at various levels to apprehend criminals and receivers of stolen property.